

Enduring Understanding

Citizens of local democratic communities have many rights and responsibilities.

Essential Questions

What is democracy?

What are the rights and responsibilities of a citizen in a democracy?

Students will be able to:

G.3.2.2 — Explore the roles of responsible citizens in preserving the environment:

- *recycling*
- *planting trees*
- *conserving energy*

C.4.2.4 — Define *democracy*

C.5.2.2 — Examine the rights and responsibilities that citizens have in a community (e.g., obey laws, voting in elections)

C.5.2.3 — Explain the voter's role in the democratic process

H.6.2.8 — Describe the ways in which communities have changed over time

Vocabulary

democracy *citizenship* *conservation* *environment* *ecology*

Teaching Strategies

1. Discuss the concept of voting in a democracy.
2. When possible, invite a local elected/appointed government official to visit the classroom to discuss his/her roles in fulfilling the purposes of a community and the importance of voting for elected officials.
3. Discuss the concepts and importance of environment, ecology, and conservation. Discuss how communities have changed over time. Discuss how protecting our environment is a responsibility of citizenship. Brainstorm environmental concerns in the local community. Students suggest ideas for class community service projects. Students will vote for a class project, e.g. recycling, planting trees, conserving energy and/or water, anti-littering campaign, campus clean up.
4. Write a letter to a local official (sheriff, county judge, mayor, school board members) expressing concern(s) about the environment and explain their community service project.

Assessments/Rubrics

Teacher-created rubric for letter to the official